

Please add the following new claims to the application:

--21. The tooth bleaching composition according to claim 1, which further includes water.

22. The tooth bleaching composition according to claim 21, wherein said chemical compound generating hydrogen peroxide in an aqueous solution is hydrogen peroxide.

23. The tooth bleaching composition according to claim 22, wherein said thickening agent is hectorite.

24. A method for bleaching a discolored tooth comprising applying the bleaching composition according to claim 23 onto the surface of a discolored tooth and irradiating the applied surface area with light.

25. The tooth bleaching composition according to claim 23, wherein the hydrogen peroxide is included in the composition in an amount of 10% by weight or less.

26. The tooth bleaching composition according to claim 1, wherein the titanium dioxide is particulate titanium dioxide coated with calcium phosphate.

27. The tooth bleaching composition according to claim 1, wherein the titanium dioxide is in particulate form, having a particle diameter of 1 to 500 nm.

28. The tooth bleaching composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of titanium dioxide in the composition is in a range of 0.01 to 1% by weight.

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29. The tooth bleaching composition according to claim 1, wherein the amount of titanium dioxide in the composition is in a range of 0.01 to 0.1% by weight.

30. The tooth bleaching composition according to claim 1, wherein the viscosity of the composition is in a range of 5,000 to 50,000 centipoise.--